

The list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising:

administering at least one osmotically active compound to an airway surface of the subject in an amount effective to increase the volume of liquid on the airway surface, wherein the at least one osmotically active compound comprises at least one salt; and

administering a bronchodilator to said subject prior to or concurrently with said osmotically active compound in an amount sufficient to inhibit bronchoconstriction.

15. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim [[1]] 14, wherein the subject is afflicted with cystic fibrosis.

16-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim [[1]] 14, wherein said administering step of the at least one osmotically active compound is an aerosol inhalation administering step.

21-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises an anion selected from the group consisting of acetate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate, bitartrate, bromide, calcium edetate, camsylate, carbonate, chloride, citrate, dihydrochloride, edetate, edisylate, estolate,

esylate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glutamate, glycolylarsanilate, hexylresorcinate, hydrabamine, hydrobromide, hydrochloride, hydroxynaphthoate, iodide, isethionate, lactate, lactobionate, malate, maleate, mandelate, mesylate, methylbromide, methylnitrate, methylsulfate, mucate, napsylate, nitrate, pamoate, pantothenate, phosphate or diphosphate, polygalacturonate, salicylate, stearate, subacetate, succinate, sulfate, tannate, tartrate, teoclate, triethylidide, and bicarbonate.

32. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises an anion selected from the group consisting of sulfate, nitrate, gluconate, iodide, bicarbonate, bromide, and phosphate.

33. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises a cation selected from the group consisting of benzathine , chloroprocaine, choline, diethanolamine, ethylenediamine, meglumine, procaine, D-Lysine, L-lysine, D-arginine, L-arginine, triethylammonium, N-methyl D-glycerol, aluminum, calcium, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, zinc, iron, and ammonium.

34. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises a cation selected from the group consisting of choline, lithium, meglumine, D-lysine, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, and potassium.

35. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises:
an anion selected from the group consisting of sulfate, nitrate, gluconate, iodide, bicarbonate, bromide, and phosphate; and
a cation selected from the group consisting of choline, lithium, meglumine, D-lysine, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, and potassium.

36. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises a single salt.

37. (previously presented) A method for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering at least one salt to an airway surface of the subject in an amount effective to increase the volume of liquid on the airway surface; wherein said at least one salt comprises a combination of different salts; and
wherein said combination of different salts have either (i) a same anion or (ii) a same cation.

38. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein said different salts have a same anion.

39. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein said different salts have a same cation.

40. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein said salt comprises an anion and a cation, and wherein at least one of said anion and said cation are non-absorbable in relation to said airway surface.

41. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein said salt comprises an anion and a cation, and wherein both of said anion and said cation are non-absorbable in relation to said airway surface.

42. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14,
wherein said at least one salt is selected from the group consisting of choline chloride, choline iodide, lithium chloride, meglumine chloride, L-lysine chloride, D-lysine chloride, ammonium chloride, potassium sulfate, potassium nitrate, potassium gluconate, potassium iodide, ferric chloride, ferrous chloride, potassium bromide, potassium phosphate, potassium bicarbonate, and sodium bicarbonate.

In re: R. Boucher
Serial No.: 10/087,355
Filed: March 1, 2002
Page 5 of 9

43. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt is selected from the group consisting of potassium sulfate, potassium nitrate, potassium gluconate, potassium iodide, potassium bromide, potassium phosphate, and potassium bicarbonate.

44. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt is potassium sulfate, potassium nitrate, potassium gluconate, potassium iodide, potassium bromide, potassium phosphate, and potassium bicarbonate.

45-49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said at least one salt is potassium bicarbonate.

51. (currently amended) A method for treating cystic fibrosis in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering at least one osmotically active compound to an airway surface of the subject in an amount effective to increase the volume of liquid on the airway surface;

wherein the at least one osmotically active compound comprises potassium bicarbonate; and ~~wherein the administering step is by inhalation at least one salt; and administering a bronchodilator to said subject prior to or concurrently with said osmotically active compound in an amount sufficient to inhibit bronchoconstriction.~~

52. (new) The method according to claim 37, wherein the subject is afflicted with cystic fibrosis.